AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (withdrawn) A colorless UV-absorbing pigment at least partially coated with a synergist having the formula

$$[R_m(SiO_n)]_pR'_q,$$

wherein

(a) m is 1 to 3, n is 1 to 3, p is at least 1, and q is 0 to 3, and

(b) at least one R or R' is a substituent that upon pyrolysis generates a black material suitable for providing a mark.

2. (withdrawn) A pigment according to claim 1 wherein m is 2 or 3 and each R is the same substituent.

3. (withdrawn) A pigment according to claim 1 wherein m is 2 or 3 and each R is a different substituent.

4. (withdrawn) A pigment according to claim 1 wherein at least one R or R' upon pyrolysis produces carbon black, silicon carbide, silicon oxycarbide, or mixtures thereof.

5. (withdrawn) A pigment according to claim 1 wherein at least one R is the same as R'.

6. (withdrawn) A pigment according to claim 1 wherein at least one of R and R' comprises an aryl group.

7. (withdrawn) A pigment according to claim 1 which comprises TiO_2, ZnO, or ZnS.

8. (original) A composition suitable for laser marking when exposed to radiation from an excimer laser, said composition comprising

(1) a fluoropolymer having a processing temperature T_p,

(2) 0.1 to 50% by weight of the composition of a colorless UV-absorbing pigment, and

(3) a synergist having the formula

$$[R_m(SiO_n)]_pR'_q,$$

wherein

(a) m is 1 to 3, n is 1 to 3, p is at least 1, and q is 0 to 3, and

(b) at least one R or R' is a substituent that upon pyrolysis generates a black material suitable for providing a mark,

said synergist being (i) present at at least 10% by weight of the pigment present in the polymer composition, (ii) heat stable at a temperature of at least T_p, and (iii) in physical proximity with the pigment.

9. (original) A composition according to claim 8 wherein the fluoropolymer is a melt-processible fluoropolymer.

10. (original) A composition according to claim 9 wherein the fluoropolymer comprises PFA, MFA, ETFE, or FEP.

11. (original) A composition according to claim 8 wherein the fluoropolymer comprises PTFE.

12. (original) A composition according to claim 8 wherein the synergist comprises a silsesquioxane or a polyhedral oligomeric (POSS).

13. (original) A composition according to claim 12 wherein the synergist comprises dodecaphenylsilsesquioxane.

14. (original) A composition according to claim 8 wherein the synergist is present at at least 20% by weight of the pigment.

15. (original) A composition according to claim 8 wherein the pigment comprises TiO_2, ZnO, or ZnS.

16. (original) A composition suitable for laser marking when exposed to radiation from an excimer laser, said composition comprising

(1) polytetrafluoroethylene,

(2) 0.1 to 50% by weight of the composition of a colorless UV-absorbing pigment, and

(3) a synergist having the formula

$$[R_m(SiO_n)]_pR'_q,$$

wherein

(a) m is 1 to 3, n is 1 to 3, p is at least 1, and q is 0 to 3, and

(b) at least one R or R' is a substituent that upon pyrolysis generates a black material suitable for providing a mark,

said synergist being (i) present at at least 0.1% by weight of the pigment present in the polymer composition, (ii) heat stable at a temperature of at least T_p, and (iii) in physical proximity with the pigment.

17. (withdrawn) An insulated conductor which comprises

(A) an elongate wire, and

(B) an insulating layer surrounding said wire, said layer comprising a composition which comprises

(1) a fluoropolymer having a processing temperature T_p,

(2) 0.1 to 25% by weight of the composition of a colorless UV-absorbing pigment, and

(3) a synergist having the formula

$$[R_m(SiO_n)]_pR'_q,$$

wherein

(a) m is 1 to 3, n is 1 to 3, p is at least 1, and q is 0 to 3, and

(b) at least one R or R' is a substituent that upon pyrolysis generates a black material suitable for providing a mark,

said synergist being (i) present at at least 10% by weight of the pigment present in the polymer composition, (ii) heat stable at a temperature of at least T_p, and (iii) in physical proximity with the pigment.

18. (withdrawn) A conductor according to claim 17 wherein the composition comprises a perfluoropolymer.

19. (withdrawn) A conductor according to claim 18 wherein the perfluoropolymer is PTFE.

20. (withdrawn) A conductor according to claim 19 wherein the synergist comprises dodecaphenylsilsesquioxane.

21. (withdrawn) A conductor according to claim 17 which, when exposed to an excimer laser at a wavelength of 308 nm and a fluence of 800 mJ/cm^2, produces a mark having a contrast of at least 70%.